FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

March 17, 1935

This field meeting was attended by fourteen members and guests who hiked in the Pine Barren region northeast of Lakewood, N. J.

Along the borders of several cultivated fields the small plants of *Draba verna* or Whitlow Grass and *Stellaria media*, thec ommon Chickweed, were in full bloom. The former is interesting from its habit of producing cleistogamous flowers, and the latter, a hardy immigrant from the Old World, takes possession of all fields the minute cultivation ceases. *Scleranthus annuus* or Knawal, also naturalized from Europe, was abundant in fields near Lakewood having little awl-shaped leaves and spreading creeping branches. Though not in flower it might easily be mistaken for Mountain Pink.

The buds of *Acer rubrum*, *Populus tremuloides*, and a species of Salix had swollen noticeably, and staminate catkins of *Alnus rugosa* were hanging loosely in the breeze.

Species of red-fruited lichens on the borders of the sand roads were *Cladonia cristatella* mostly forma *vestita* and *beauvoisii*, some splendidly fruited cups of *Cladonia pleurota* and occasionally good specimens of *Cladonia macilenta* with little red tips. The brown fruited *Cladonia floridana* which reacts yellow upon application of KOH was very common. Less so was *Cladonia calycantha* which resembles *C. verticillata* but for its squamulose cups. This is a typical Pine Barren Lichen. We found several colonies of the tiny cactus-like *Cladonia papillaria* forma *molariformis* growing densely on the sides of the sand road. *C. rangiferina* and a form much denser but not as tall was also frequent. Others seen were *C. squamosa*, *coniocraea*, *verticillata*, and forms of *carpophora*. A green algae-like substance covered the earth in places and was spattered with pinkish dots. *Cladonia uncialis* was common everywhere though rather stunted at times due to the sandy substratum and the hot summer sun.

Pyxidata barbulata showed pink in the bud and should be in bloom three weeks hence. *Epigea repens* also disclosed swelling buds of potential fragrance. Several plants of *Ilex opaca* were

seen but it is more common near the coast and southward. In a portion of a cedar swamp a few specimens of *Mitchella repens* crept over the sphagnum. It is not found on the barrens proper, but follows the tributaries of the rivers from the coast. *Ilex glabra*, the ink-berry, with evergreen leaves commonly occupied moist ground and the dark berries of this dioecious plant still remained on the bushes.

A small cedar swamp which we investigated sported a clump of Pitcher Plant.

Mosses seen were *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dicranum fuscescens* with leaves curled when dried, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Thelia hirtella* from the base of a tree, and a species of Bryum.

Pinus rigida was the prevailing conifer. We came across some *Pinus echinata*, the Yellow Pine, with leaves mostly in two's sometimes three's. It has softer and finer needles than the Pitch Pine and the whole tree is less harsh in outline than the stiff branching of *Pinus rigida*.

Where we lunched were some of the grass-like clumps of *Xerophyllum asphodeloides* or Turkey Beard, a plant of the lily family. The dried racemes of last year still stood above the green clumps.

We saw at least a dozen Turkey Buzzards throughout the day soaring overhead as we hiked along. Light reflecting from the under wing surface makes these appear silvery instead of their natural glossy blackish. We also saw a sparrow hawk. Spring peepers were chorusing in several little swampy spots and some of the people had collected frog eggs and a spotted turtle near Maxim, our starting point.

While ambling over some of the sand roads we noticed small three inch piles of sand resembling ant hills. The hole on top was at least one quarter inch wide and a pine needle would fall in to a depth of four inches or so. This excluded the probability of ants and their winding passages. With the aid of a guest's trowel we tried to dig down following the hole, and the leader, after several failures, managed to dig up a species of digger wasp. The ground consisted of a six to eight inch layer of white sand overlying a substratum of brown sand. The workings of the wasps showed some of the latter well attesting to their digging powers.

A single specimen of *Lechea maritima* or Beech Pinweed, a

member of the Cistaceae or Rockrose Family, was discovered with its flat rosette of reddish green, quarter inch, persistent leaves.

Various species of Broom Grasses as *Andropogon scoparius* and *A. virginicus* in dry sandy fields and *A. corymbosus abbreviatus* of swamps were still in a condition for identification. The first two cover more or less completely all abandoned fields in the Barrens before they are taken over by the Pitch Pine-scrub oak growth and line all the sand roads for miles on end.

GEORGE F. DILLMANN

MARCH 24, 1935—PARKER CABIN MOUNTAIN, PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK

Despite the pessimistic predictions of the weather bureau, the day dawned clear and fine. Eleven members and guests turned up for this trip to observe the lichens of the Highlands of the Hudson. Starting at Tuxedo, the party climbed Black Ash and Parker Cabin mountains, observing many common species as they went.

The Brownie's Buttons (*Biatorella clavus*) was especially common on the granite-gneisses of the hills. Only the small black disc of the fruit is visible to the naked eye, the rest of the lichen being hidden within the rock. Rock tripes (*Umbilicaria pustulata* and *Gyrophora dillenii*) were common, especially on the exposed rocks at the higher levels. Less conspicuous were the crustose *Lecidea albocaerulescens* and *Lecanora cinerea*.

At the tops of the hills was a characteristic lichen flora. *Cladonia rangiferina*, the reindeer "moss" was intermixed with *Cladonia uncialis* among the Hairy cap mosses at the edge of the exposed rock surfaces. The former was easily distinguished among the others by its ashy gray color. Here too, especially on the sandstone and quartzite boulders left by the glaciers, was *Rhinodina oreina*, a crustose yellow-green lichen with lobed thallus. Although fairly common at the higher levels in this vicinity, it is only occasionally found at sea level. *Lecanora tartarea*, the "cudbear" which the Scotch use in making a dye, was found fruiting abundantly.

After lunch at the top of Parker Cabin Mountain, and enjoying the extensive view, the beacon tower on High Tor being plainly visible to the east, the party descended to the Hemlock Hill road for water at the brook mentioned by Mr. R. H. Torrey in his Walkbook. Here the find of the day was made, a colony of *Hydrothyria venosa*. This species is found in clear mountain brooks in the Appalachians. It is the only completely aquatic lichen in our flora and as an especial adaptation to resist the rushing waters has veins of tissue on the undersurface. Its apothecia are orange in color and the lichen is olive brown.

While returning through Parker Cabin Hollow, Cladonias were especially noticed. *C. cristatella*, *C. chlorophaea*, *C. verticillata*, *C. coniocraea*, *C. mitrula*, *C. subcariosa* and *C. caespiticia*, all characteristic of the Highlands were found. *Baeomyces roseus* and *Peltigera canina* were also rather common. *Parmelia rudecta* and *P. caperata* were observed on tree trunks; *P. conspersa* on rocks.

Mosses of the Highlands were also observed, among them being *Buxbaumia aphylla* still fruiting abundantly, *Bartramia pomiformis* with the new capsules just formed, *Weberi sessilis*, *Hedwigia albicans*, *Grimmia apocarpa*, *Thelia hirtella*, *Dicranum scoparium*, *Dicranella heteromalla*, *Catharinea undulata*, *Leucobryum glaucum*, *Funaria hygrometrica*, *Climacium americanum*, and *Polytrichum commune* and *piliferum*.

The catkin bearing shrubs had already begun to flower, alder and beaked hazelnut having their staminate catkins fully expanded. The party examined the delicate pistillate flowers of the hazelnut and remarked upon their beauty.

The herpetologists too were not neglected; besides collecting wood frogs and their eggs and water newts in the ponds along the trail, a racer blacksnake was found in Parker Cabin Hollow. The reptile was still sluggish after its long winter hibernation and submitted to capture without much show of resentment.

John W. Thomson, Jr.

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